IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An imaging apparatus comprising:

a setup part for an exposure period configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device;

a control part for the image pickup device configured to control an operation of said image pick up device in synchronization with said timing signal of the exposure period;

a timing part configured to measure an elapsed time from the timing signal of the exposure period; and

an imaging apparatus control part configured to control said control part for the image pick up device and said setup part for the exposure period,

wherein said timing part measures an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation by said setup part for the exposure period, and when a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time, said imaging apparatus control part shortens the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal from a regular exposure period.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said control part for the image pickup device ~~control part~~.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than the regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said control part for the image pickup device ~~control part~~, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An imaging method comprising the steps of:

preparing an image apparatus including an exposure period setup part configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device, an image pick up device control part configured to control the image pick up device by synchronizing to the exposure period timing signal, a timing part configured to measure an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal, and an imaging apparatus control part configured to control the image pick up device control part and said exposure period setup part;

measuring an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation; and

judging whether or not a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal to or greater than a predetermined time,

shortening the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal when the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal is judged to be equal or greater than the predetermined time by said judging step.

Claim 6 (Original): The imaging method according to Claim 5, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The imaging method according to Claim 5, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than the regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable medium including computer executable instructions provided in an imaging apparatus including an exposure period setup part configured to generate a timing signal which prescribes an exposure period of an image pick up device, an image pick up device control part configured to control the image pick up device by synchronizing to the exposure period timing signal, a timing part configured to measure an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal, and an imaging apparatus control part configured to control said image pick up device control part and said exposure period setup part, the computer executable instructions causing the processor to perform a method comprising:

measuring an elapsed time from the exposure period timing signal right before a beginning of an exposure setup operation to the beginning of the exposure setup operation by said exposure period setup part;

judging whether or not a time from the beginning of the exposure setup operation to a generation of a next exposure period timing signal, the time being calculated by using the measured elapsed time, is equal or greater than a predetermined time; and

outputting the exposure period timing signal for beginning the exposure period earlier than a generation of a regular next exposure period timing signal when the time till the generation of the next exposure period timing signal is judged to be equal to or greater than the predetermined time by said judging step.

Claim 10 (Original): The control program according to Claim 9, wherein said predetermined time is a time required for conducting the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): The control program according to Claim 9, wherein in order to shorten the time till the generation of the exposure period timing, the exposure period timing signal is generated earlier than a regular exposure period, right after the exposure setup to said image pick up device control part, and the exposure period is thereby begun.

Claims 13-25 (Canceled).